

## GERMANY MUST HEED OR DIPLOMATIC BREAK COMES

### President Wilson Before Congress Announces Sending of Final Note to Imperial German Government at Berlin

#### THE MESSAGE

The President's Message  
[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

In addressing the joint session, the president said:

"Gentlemen of the congress: A situation has arisen in the foreign relations of the country, of which it is my plain duty to inform you very frankly.

"It will be recalled that in February, 1915, the Imperial German government announced its intention to treat the waters surrounding Great Britain and Ireland as embraced within the seat of war, and to destroy all merchant ships owned by its enemies that might be found within any part of that portion of the high seas, and that it warned all vessels of neutral as well as of belligerent ownership to keep out of the waters it had thus prescribed or else enter them at their peril.

"The government of the United States earnestly protested. It took the position that such a policy could not be pursued without the practical certainty of gross and palpable violation of the law of nations, particularly if submarine craft were to be employed as its instruments. Inasmuch as the rules prescribed by that law, rules founded upon principles of humanity and established for the protection of the lives of non-combatants at sea, could not, in the nature of the case, be observed by such vessels.

"It based its protest on the ground that persons of neutral nationality and vessels of neutral ownership would be exposed to extreme and intolerable risks, and that no right to close any part of the high seas against their use or to expose them to such risks could lawfully be asserted by any belligerent government.

"The law of nations in these matters, upon which the government of the United States bases its protest, is not of recent origin, or founded upon merely arbitrary principles set up by convention. It is based, on the contrary, upon manifest and imperative principles of humanity and has long been established with the approval and by the express assent of all civilized nations.

"Notwithstanding the earnest protest of our government, the Imperial German government at once proceeded to carry out the policy it had announced. It expressed the hope that the dangers involved, at any rate the dangers to neutral vessels, would be reduced to a minimum by the instructions which it had issued to its submarine commanders and assured the government of the United States that it would take every possible precaution, both to respect the rights of neutrals and to safeguard the lives of non-combatants.

"What has actually happened in the year which has since elapsed has shown that these hopes were not justified, those assurances inane and empty of being filled. In pursuance of the policy of submarine warfare against the commerce of its adversaries, thus announced and entertained upon the Imperial German government in spite of the solemn protest of this government.

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#### PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION IS RECEIVED BY CONGRESS WITH MIXED EVIDENCE OF CONCERN AND OF APPROBATION

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire.)

WASHINGTON, April 19.—President Wilson's long expected final warning to Germany that the United States will break off diplomatic relations unless she abandons her present methods of submarine warfare, and immediately declares her intention to do so, was delivered today in a note to Berlin and also was announced by the president in an address to a joint session of congress.

The president considers that the next step depends solely upon Germany and that three or four days constitute a reasonable time for a reply. Diplomatic history records but one instance as yet, where a breaking of relations between two first class powers has not eventually brought war—that which now exists between Germany and Italy.

Congress received the president's declaration of his course with mixed evidences of concern and approbation. Most of the leaders, democratic and republican, thought the president hardly could do less, and some expressed the opinion that his action would not lead to war. Republican Leader Mann, along with all the opposition leaders, openly attacked the president for his stand. He characterized it as a political play.

The president guarded his plans with effective secrecy, until 10 o'clock this morning when he disclosed them at a conference with Chairman Stone, and Senator Lodge, the ranking republican, of the senate foreign relations committee and Chairman Flood and Representative Cooper, the ranking republican, of the foreign affairs committee of the house. He outlined to them what he had said in the note despatched to Berlin last night, and what he purposed to say to congress today.

When the president finished reading, he looked up and seeing Senator Stone's grave face, said, "You look as sad as I feel."

The chairman's response was to inquire of the president if he and told them all he had to say. The conference then ended.

The word of the president's plan spread quickly through congress and when he took his place at the clerk's desk in the hall of the house, promptly at one o'clock he was confronted by an assembly of gravely quiet senators and representatives who hung intently upon every word he uttered, and cheered him heartily when he had finished.

The president asked nothing of congress; he came only to inform it of his action. He did it in fifteen minutes and congress went back to work, solemnly impressed with the situation which confronted the country. The scene had been dramatically human. The president's demeanor reflected

his state of mind, and an impartial observer readily would say the demeanor of congress as a whole reflected its sympathy.

The first actually crucial moment toward which the relations of the United States and Germany have been steadily drifting for nearly a year had come and been passed and the president had returned to the white house to await the action of Berlin.

President Wilson's words leave no opportunity for double meaning. In his address to congress he said: "I have deemed it my duty to say to the Imperial German government that if it is still its purpose to prosecute relentless and indiscriminate warfare \* \* \* the government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue, and that unless the Imperial German government should now, immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of warfare against passengers and freight carrying vessels, the government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations altogether."

The note to Berlin declares: "The government of the United States has been very patient. \* \* \* It has accepted the successive explanations and assurances of the Imperial German government as of course given in entire sincerity, and good faith and has hoped even against hope that it would prove to be pos-

sible for the Imperial government so to order and control the acts of its naval commanders as to square its policy with the recognized principles of humanity, as embodied in the law of nations. It has made every allowance for unprecedented conditions and has been willing to wait until the facts became unmistakable, and were susceptible only of one interpretation.

"It now owes it to a just regard for its own rights to say to the Imperial government that that time has come. It has become painfully evident to it that the position which it took at the very outset is inevitable, namely, the use of submarines for the destruction of an enemy's commerce is of necessity because of the very character of the vessels employed and the very methods of attack which their employment of course involves, utterly incompatible with the principles of humanity, the long established and incontrovertible rights of neutrals and the sacred immunities of non-combatants.

"If it still is the purpose of the Imperial government to prosecute relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines without regard to what the government of the United States must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity, the government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue.

"Unless the Imperial government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against passengers and freight carrying vessels, the government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the German empire altogether. This action, the government of the United States contemplates with the greatest reluctance, but feels constrained to take in behalf of humanity and the rights of neutral nations."

Had the recent attack on the Channel Steamer Sussex, the note tells Germany, been an isolated case, the United States might have hoped that the submarine commander acted in violation of his government's solemn pledges and that the ends of justice might have been satisfied by a disavowal, reparation and proper punishment. But, it adds, this case unhappily does not stand alone.

"On the contrary," the note says, "the government of the United States is forced by recent events to conclude that it is only one instance even though one of the most extreme and most distressing instances of the deliberate method and spirit of indiscriminate destruction of merchant vessels of all sorts, nationalities and destinations which have become more and more unmistakable as to the

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#### THE NOTE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, April 19.—America's note to Germany made public here late today says:

Unless the Imperial government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels, the government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the German empire altogether.

"It," says the note, "is still the purposes of the Imperial government to prosecute relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines without regard to what the government of the U. S. must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity, the government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue."

The note asserts that information in the possession of the U. S. establishes conclusively that the Channel steamer Sussex was torpedoed without warning and that the torpedo was of German manufacture. The conclusion that the torpedo was fired by a German submarine, it adds, is considered substantiated by Germany's disclaimer.

The note declares if the Sussex had been an isolated case the United States might regard it as possible to hope that officers responsible had been negligent or violated his orders, but that unhappily this terrible example of submarine warfare does not stand alone.

Germany is informed that the United States gained the impression from her recent communication that the Imperial government failed to appreciate the gravity of the situation "which has resulted not alone from the attack on the Sussex but from the whole method and character of submarine warfare, as disclosed by the unrestrained practice of the commanders of German submarines craft during the past twelve months and more, in the indiscriminate destruction of merchant vessels of all sorts, nationalities and destinations."

An appendix to the note which deals entirely with an analysis of the facts in the Sussex case discloses that American army and navy officers found in the Sussex crew bolts which correspond with those on German torpedoes in possession of the French naval authorities at Toulon. The screw bolts are used to fasten the "war head" to the air chamber.

Full Text of Note

The full text of the note follows: You are instructed to deliver to the secretary of foreign affairs a communication reading as follows: "I did not fail to transmit immediately by telegraph to my government your excellency's note of the tenth instant in regard to certain attacks by German submarines, and particularly in reference to the disastrous explosion which on March 24 last wrecked the steamship Sussex in the English channel. I have now the honor to deliver, under instructions

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#### NO WITHDRAWAL UNTIL GENERAL SCOTT MAKES REPORT ON SITUATION

CONFIRMING THE DEATH OF VILLA

MEXICO CITY, April 19.—According to messages received here evidence confirmatory to the death of Francisco Villa is being gathered slowly. Officials now are more disposed to give credit to the first reports of the finding of the grave of the bandit. One report today said the Indians who cared for Villa during his last days had been located and depositions taken. According to these affidavits, Villa died of blood poisoning. At the foreign office full credit is attached to the statements of these Indians.

#### ARE CERTAIN HAVE BODY OF PANCHO VILLA

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

MEXICO CITY, April 19.—A dispatch received by the war department today from military headquarters in the state of Chihuahua said the telegraph operator at San Antonio, Chihuahua, had reported that the party which recently discovered the body of a man at San Francisco Borja, had declared it was that of Francisco Villa and that it would be shipped to headquarters for the purpose of identification.

Discussing the dispatch, Minister of War Obregon said the body probably was that of the bandit chief. If a complete identification was obtained he added, it would solve the international situation that brought about the advance of American troops into Mexico.

General Gonzales, who has been in the capital for several months, will leave with his forces next Monday for Contreiras a point in the mountains between this city and Cuernavaca on the Mexico Iguila railway. The command of General Gonzales consists of 45,000 men scattered throughout the federal district and the states of Morelos, Puebla, Hidalgo and Mexico.

It is understood that the bulk of these men will be used in the furtherance of the campaign against Emiliano Zapata, in the state of Morelos.

The war department claims to have received full confirmation of the death of General Manuel Palfo, Antonio Soto, Y. Gama, former president of the republic and General Francisco Pacheco which were reported several days ago. All these

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#### Not for at Least Ten Days Will Decision Be Made as to the Recall of the United States Troops Now in Mexico

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, April 19.—No decision as to the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico is expected for a week or ten days, unless there are new outbreaks against the forces in Mexico to compel immediate action. This was made clear today when Secretary Baker dispatched Major General Hugh L. Scott chief of staff, to the border as his personal representative to make a complete report on the military problems confronting General Funston.

The administration's final action on General Carranza's suggestion that the expedition be recalled probably will be based largely on what is shown in this report. General Scott, who left Washington tonight, hardly will be able to make the round trip and complete his observations in less than ten days.

Secretary Baker said General Scott's mission would be to assemble complete information as to the border situation for the use of the department. He also will establish a personal touch with that situation for the secretary which Mr. Baker has felt need of in advising the administration as to the military aspects of the Mexican question.

General Scott himself explained that he would be "the eyes of the secretary" on the border. Accompanied by his aide, Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. L. Michie, of the general's staff he will reach General Funston's headquarters at San Antonio, Texas, next Friday evening.

Mr. Baker laid stress in his announcement on the fact that General Funston is in supreme command of the border situation and expeditionary forces and will remain so. He said the department fully approved every step General Funston had taken, and that General Scott was going only because it had seemed desirable to get a clearer view than was possible by means of official reports.

In the meantime, state department officials will take up consideration of what reply they shall make to the Carranza note urging the withdrawal of the American forces. Some questions involved in that note can be worked out before the military situation finally is reported.

Dispatches from the border or from Mexico today contained no word of

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#### Little Doing With U.S. Troops Until Scott Investigates

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SAN ANTONIO, April 19.—Military operations of the American forces in Mexico will remain practically at a standstill until Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff, has completed his study of the situation.

Two companies of the Nineteenth Infantry left here tonight for Eagle Pass, to relieve troops ordered from there, but no provisions have been made to fill the places that will be left by other forces on the border.

General Funston expressed pleasure that General Scott was coming for it would give him an opportunity to explain personally details of the situation that has become so complex.

A report from General Pershing was received today but its character was not commented on by General Funston. It was said there had been no material change in the military situation and no news regarding Villa's whereabouts.

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#### Bernstorff Reports United States Means What It Says

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Count von Bernstorff sent to Berlin tonight a long dispatch regarding the situation with Washington and making certain recommendations. He is understood to have advised his government that he believes the United States meant just what it said in the submarine note and that something would have to be done quickly if friendly relations were to continue.

The ambassador himself having read the address of the president and the note said: "I can make no comment either upon the address or upon the communication which has been sent to my government."

However, he was authoritatively described as having advised the Berlin foreign office in the message sent tonight that he believes at least some such declaration as that made regarding the conduct of submarine warfare in the Mediterranean should be issued immediately to cover all submarine operations.

The Mediterranean declaration was handed to Secretary Lansing by the Ambassador on January 7 of this year. It contained assurances much broader in their scope than these given to cover the activities of the submarine in the war zone around the British Isles where Germany has contended from the first that she was engaged in a campaign of retaliation for the British blockade.

The assurances were to the effect that only active warfare would be conducted against enemy merchant shipping, and that non-combatant ships of every character, freight as well as passenger carrying, would be accorded proper warning and safety

for their passengers and crew. The assurances which have been given for the war zone around the British Isles covered only "liners."

The declaration of January 7 also promised that German submarine commanders who failed to obey the assurances given would be punished, and that reparation would be made for deaths or injury to American citizens.

German commanders operating in the Mediterranean it was said in the declaration which was issued after the Steamship Persia had gone down, had particular instructions to exclude such measures of reprisal as were applied in the war zone around the British Isles.

It is expected that Count von Bernstorff will confer with Secretary Lansing tomorrow. The secretary informed him today that he was ready

to discuss the matter at his convenience. Since the inception of the present situation, Count von Bernstorff has made two attempts to discuss the situation with the secretary. On each occasion, he was informed that he would be given an opportunity later. The time of the proposed conference has not been definitely fixed tonight. While the ambassador appeared to be more perturbed tonight than at any time since the beginning of the submarine controversy he was said to feel that his government would go to every possible length to prevent the severance of diplomatic relations.

Persons in close touch with affairs of the embassy quoted him as saying: "I believe that some way will be found satisfactorily to meet the position of the United States."

#### London Papers Comment on Latest Note to Germany

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

LONDON, April 20.—Although the text of President Wilson's message to congress did not reach London in time for the morning papers to comment fully, all devote considerable space to the American situation. The Daily Chronicle says editorially:

"It is difficult to suppose that the German government elated by the submarine successes of past six weeks will accept President Wilson's terms. Diplomatic relations between Berlin and Washington will be broken off. The resulting situation will not

be a state of war, but may easily develop into war.

"This is obvious to both parties. Mr. Wilson has counted the cost. Presumably the Kaiser also has counted it. If Germany decides that the continuance of submarine warfare is worth a diplomatic break with America, it probably also will decide that it is worth war too.

"If the Kaiser desires to avoid war with America he would naturally make his concession at a stage when they would also avoid the breaking of relations.

#### COLUMBUS BANDITS PLACED ON TRIAL

DEMING, N. M., April 19.—Six wounded Mexicans captured in El Valle, were placed on trial here today on the charge of murder. The state rested its case this afternoon and it was said that the trial would be short. The defense will attempt to show that the Mexicans were taken during the raid on Columbus, N. M., or shortly afterwards. They also will be tried on the charge of murder.

#### DE FACTO TROOPS HAVE TROUBLE IN SECURING FOOD SUPPLIES

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

DOUGLAS, Ariz., April 19.—Americans arriving here today from the Batavia river valley in which the concentration of troops in eastern Sonora has been under way for several weeks, report that the de facto forces are stationary and are experiencing difficulty in getting sufficient food supplies.

Ives G. Leveier, consul of the de facto government in Douglas, stated today that General Arnulfo Gomez is still in Colonia Morelos and has no intention of moving for the present. He denied authoritatively that Gomez has received any orders from General Alvarado Obregon, de facto secretary of war to advance into Chihuahua. Such orders have been expected for nearly two weeks, and their continued absence is puzzling to the Mexican military.

#### Gavira and Garcia Still Believe Villa Is Dead

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

EL PASO, April 19.—In spite of every denial and doubt and in the face of the statement of Gov. Enriquez at Chihuahua that the story of Villa's death was only a rumor, General Gavira and Consul Garcia reasserted tonight their confidence in the truth of its finding of the body of the bandit.

General Gavira said that he had learned unofficially today that the failure of Colonel Cavazos who went to San Francisco Borja to exhumate Villa's body, to arrive at Chihuahua was due to the fact that he had changed his program and was taking the body to Santa Ysabel. The latter town is thirty-five miles north of San Francisco Borja and about an

equal distance from Chihuahua with which it is connected by the Mexican Northwestern railroad. At the same time both Gen. Gavira and Consul Garcia expressed uneasiness over the continued absence of direct news from Colonel Cavazos. He is not supposed to have had more than a small body of troops with him and it is feared that he may have fallen into a trap laid for him by the Villistas. Interest in Villa's fate or whereabouts has considerably waned here in the face of the crisis between the United States and Germany and its possible effect in causing the withdrawal of the troops from Mexico. Washington, and not Mexico, is the real center of interest at the border tonight.